STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Seeking amendment to the first Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 for enhancement of Customs Duty applicable to goods falling under sub-heading 5201.00

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move the following Resolution:-

> "In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of Section 7 of the said Act, this House approves of Notification No. 2/2002-Customs dated 8.1.2002 (G.S.R. 14(E) dated 8th January, 2002) which seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to enhance the rate of customs duty applicable to goods falling under sub-heading 5201.00 from 5% adv. to 10% adv."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): Now, we shall take up the discussion on the Budget (General), 2002-2003.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2002-2003

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, while participating in the general discussion on the General Budget for the year 2002-2003, I would like to congratulate my good, old friend, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, surely, not only for presenting a very excellent Budget, but also for making a record, or, rather creating some sort of a record in Parliamentary politics, where the rate of mortality is very high, especially, in the Ministry of Finance. This is Mr. Yashwant Sinha's fifth Budget. But, practically speaking, it is his sixth Budget because he had presented a Budget in 1990-91, though that was not a full Budget and a Vote-on-Account. As I mentioned earlier, normally, in Parliamentary politics the rate of mortality is very high, especially in the Finance Ministry. But he has not only survived but also survived very boldly and made others to feel his presence.